



# USAID/JAMAICA– WEEKLY REPORT

## September 3, 2012 Highlights:

- ♦ **The Healthy Policy Project (HPP)** - The Health Policy Project (HPP) engaged in dialogue and advocacy with partners about the need to sensitize parliamentarians about the development/adoption of laws and policies to support the rights of Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV), reduction in stigma and discrimination and the promotion of gender equality. HPP conducted assessments of health care providers at the Comprehensive Health Centre as part of the preparations for the Gender Based Violence (GBV) screening and referral pilot which will be up and running shortly.
- ♦ **COMET Evaluation Team**– International Business & Technology Consultants, Inc. the evaluation team for the Community Empowerment and Transformation Project arrived in the country on August 27, 2012. International Business & Technology Consultants, Inc. was issued a Task Order under the Evaluation Services Indefinite Quantity Contract for a performance evaluation of the Community Empowerment and Transformation (COMET) project. The estimated cost of this acquisition is \$292,201.43 for a 4-month period of performance. The COMET project, implemented by management Systems International since 2005, aims to bring about two outcomes: the reduction of crime and violence and the improvement of the quality of life in high-crime communities of Jamaica. The purpose of the task order is to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies, technical approaches, activities, implementation, and management of COMET, as well as to capture best practices and lessons that could be applied to future programs.

## September 3, 2012 Upcoming Events:

- ♦ **Partnership Framework Policy Monitoring Workshop**- USAID/Jamaica will be participating in the regional Partnership Framework Policy Monitoring Workshop for HIV/AIDS response from September 11 –14, 2012. The workshop which will be held in Miami Florida will discuss a number of objectives concerning the Importance of Policy to the HIV Response and Using Legal Mechanisms to Address the HIV Epidemic. In addition, the workshop will examine the Perspectives on the Policy Process: Government Panel in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica.
- ♦ **Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica to Meet with Minister of Education**– The Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica, Ms. Denise A. Herbol will be meeting with the Minister of Education, the Honorable Reverend Ronald Thwaites the week of September 4, 2012 to discuss the success of Camp Summer Plus 2012, and the Ministry's level of involvement for next year's camp. The USAID funded Camp Summer Plus, recently completed its second year and positively impacted 1000 students who were underperforming in literacy and numeracy at the Grade 3 level. The camp's two main aims were namely a) to provide focused, intensive, data-driven academic programs which are facilitated through technology and the arts, in the critical areas of reading and mathematics; and b) to provide nutritional, psychological, social and other support which are known to impact student performance.
- ♦ **Announcement of Renovation of the Redemption Market**- The Digicel Foundation, in partnership with USAID/Jamaica is renovating the Redemption Market in Downtown Kingston. Demolition for the project has already begun and is scheduled to be completed in December 2012. The press conference scheduled for September 6, 2012 will announce the commencement of this project to the public and will also serve to highlight USAID/Jamaica and Digicel's wider commitment to the rejuvenation of Downtown Kingston. It will also serve to highlight the public/private sector partnership between the Government of Jamaica through the Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC), the Urban Development Corporation (UDC), USAID, and Digicel Jamaica. The event will include brief formalities followed by a walking tour of Digicel's new headquarters, the Coronation Market, and the site of the Redemption Market, now under construction.